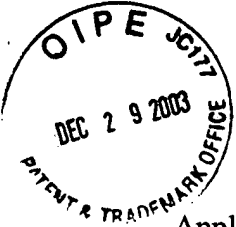


Amendment Under 37 C.F.R §1.116
Expedited Procedure – Art Unit: 1636



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/889,324
Applicant : Shizuo AKIRA et al.
Filed : July 13, 2001
Art Unit : 1636
Examiner : Qian, Celine X

Docket No. : 31671-173143
Customer No. : 26694

Date : October 29, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450 **Mail Stop: AF**
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action dated July 29, 2003 and Advisory Action dated December 9, 2003, Applicants submit the following Amendment and Reply, which accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. The Application is amended as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 12.

Applicants respectfully petition for a two month extension of time. A fee in the amount of \$420.00 is enclosed. If the Patent Office deems that any further fees are necessary, authorization is hereby granted to charge any required fees to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.